



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
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October 15, 2001

Mr. James Coulter
Remedial Project Manager
Department of the Navy
Northern Division
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
10 Industrial Highway
Mail Stop # 82
Lester, PA 19113-2090

RE: Calverton - NWIRP Site # 152136

Dear Mr. Coulter:

This letter is in response to the Phase 2 Remedial Investigation (RI) and Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) for Site 1-Northeast Pond Disposal Area, dated July 2001. We have reviewed the subject document and have no comments at this time.

We have also received a copy of the draft Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP), dated September 2001, for the Northeast Pond Disposal Area. In response, I would like to outline several of the NYSDEC requirements and typical practices for citizen participation under the NYSDEC Environmental Remediation program. Further information is available in the NYSDEC document, *Citizen Participation in New York's Hazardous Waste Site Remediation Program: A Guidebook*.

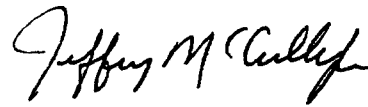
1. At the completion of the PRAP, a copy must be placed in the document repositories for the site before the first day of the comment period.
2. The Navy, as lead agency, should prepare a fact sheet that outlines the PRAP and the rationale behind selection of the proposed remedy. The fact sheet should also announce; the availability of the PRAP in the repositories, a comment period of at least 30 days and a public meeting to discuss the PRAP and gather public comment. The fact sheet should be distributed to all individuals on the site contact list. It should be received by the public before the comment period begins and at least two weeks before the public meeting.
3. A public meeting must be scheduled during the comment period and held in an accessible location within a reasonable distance of the site. The meeting should be held in the evening, Monday through Thursday. The agenda must include summary presentations of the site history, RI/FFS and the PRAP. There must also be adequate provision for questions to be answered by appropriate staff and for gathering and recording of public comments. In general, it would not be appropriate to attempt to hold a public meeting concurrent with a meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). If the remedies are complex or controversial, a public availability session may be held before the public meeting.

4. The lead agency should prepare a news release for distribution to the local and regional news media announcing the public meeting. This news release should be distributed approximately three weeks before the meeting so that weekly newspapers have time to distribute the information. Paid advertisements may also be placed in local newspapers, although this is not required. Newspapers serving the Calverton area are Newsday and Suffolk Life.
5. When the Record of Decision has been approved, the lead agency distributes another fact sheet to the contact list describing the selected remedy and any significant changes from the PRAP. This fact sheet must also summarize and respond to public comments received at the public meeting and during the comment period.

The Region 1 Citizen Participation Specialist Mark Lowery, in the Stony Brook office, is available to advise and assist in reviewing news releases, fact sheets, meeting agendas and the site contact list. Mr. Lowery may be contacted at (631) 444-0350 or mdlowery@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

If you have any questions or comments, please call me at (518) 402-9623 or e-mail to jbmccull@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey McCullough
Federal Projects Section
Division of Environmental Remediation

c: James Quinn / file
Stan Farkus (Region 1)
Mark Lowery (Region 1)
Sherry Johnson (RAB Co-Chair)